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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 438
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Gary Bailey and the 1997 Harriman High School football team on finishing as a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division 1, Class 2-A state playoff semifinalist.

WHEREAS, at the start of the season, the 1997 Harriman High School football team was unheralded and overlooked, but they had a strong belief in their own abilities and a fierce determination to work hard, overcome any obstacles in their path and to succeed, despite the opinion of the “experts”; and

WHEREAS, after a dismal prediction that Harriman would finish in the lower three of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division1, Class 2-A Region 2, the noble Blue Devils surprised everyone, except themselves, and won the coveted regional title, with an unblemished regional record; and

WHEREAS, this was the first season that the Harriman High School football team had won the coveted Class 2-A Region 2 championship; and

WHEREAS, 1997 also marked the first time in many years that a school had achieved the rare distinction of being undefeated in regional competition; and

WHEREAS, during their memorable regular season, this talented team defeated Alcoa 20-14, Sweetwater 28-7, McMinn Central 27-21, Jellico 55-12, Oliver Springs 14-13, Wartburg Central 27-21, Tellico Plains 33-3, and Rockwood 21-14; and

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WHEREAS, in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 2-A state playoffs, Harriman leashed the Greenfield North Greene Huskies 46-7 in first-round one action;

blew away the Alcoa Tornadoes 27-20 in the second round, and defeated the Elizabethton Happy Valley Warriors, in a hard-fought battle, 21-17, to reach the semi-final round; and

WHEREAS, this multi-talented team finished with a great 11-3 overall record, a winning percentage of .790; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Devils equalled or surpassed numerous school records; and

WHEREAS, they had the school's longest winning streak in 40 years, winning 10 games in a row; tied the school record for most victories in a single season (11); were the first Harriman team to win a regional title since the TSSAA changed the system from districts to regions; and were the only second Blue Devil gridiron squad to reach the semi-finals; and

WHEREAS, Coach Gary Bailey, who took over as head coach just two days before practice began, has done an admirable job of teaching each member of the team the importance of sacrifice and has also taught the players to be winners on the football field and in life. A highly regarded Harriman assistant coach for ten years, he also served expertly as the team's defensive coordinator this season; and

WHEREAS, his very capable staff included 5-year Assistant Coach Bobby Clark, Offensive Coordinator, whose offense netted more than 1,626 yards passing and 2,338 yards rushing; second-year Assistant Coach Russell Jenkins, who was in charge of special teams; and first-year Assistant Coach Guy Thompson, who was in charge of the scout team; and

WHEREAS, each of the players made a significant contribution to the success of the team. The members of the team were: Justin Borum, Denard Bertram, Marty Goins, Andre Boyd, Jonhathan Borum, Josh Bennett, Steven Fickey, Jimmy Banken, Roy Clemmons, Eddie Fredrick, Kenny Mayfield, Jon Segatto, Nate Gaskins, Josh Stricklan, Justin Bell, Allen Hickman, Phillip Schnepf, Brian Turner, J. R. Voyles, Jarret Griffis, Ashley Webb, Bradley Hacker, Adam Wright, Timmy Bridges, Josh Edmonds, Jonathan Robinson, Chip Schewski, Nathan Wilson, Bradley Woody, Kellen Mee, Jeff Buckholtz, Billy Lunsford, and Kasey Mynatt; and

WHEREAS, the diligent managers were: Zeke Pennington, Mike Pogue, Sara Fox, Brandi Turpin, and Kristy Wright; and

WHEREAS, Principal Bill Powers and Athletic Director Gary Powell have been very supportive of the team; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to recognize, honor and commend this fine team on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Gary Bailey and the 1997 Harriman High School football team, a team in which anyone who enjoys excellence in athletic endeavors can take pride. We wish them much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.